sideration of the Union Government, and

(b) if so, the assistance likely to be provided during the current financial year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R L. JALAPPA) (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, Tripura is one of the States covered under the Action Plan for North-Eastern States for development of sericulture, being implemented by the Central Silk Board (CSB). Under the Action Plan, an outlay of Rs. 6.36 crores has been kept for Tripura, of which the CSB's share is Rs. 1.81 crores with the balance to be met by the state. The provision for the current financial year is Rs. 0.73 crores.

HDFC Bank Public Issue

5. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the income-tax department investigated the details of allotment in the HDFC Bank public issue which were heavily over subscribed and bulk of the applications were through Stockinvest which were to be accompanied by applications from individuals only,

(b) if so, whether the income-tax department has since completed its investigation by now and if so, the details of the irregularities found therein; and

(c) whether any irregularity in the use of stockinvest facility has also been found and if so, the names of the bank which issued the stockinvest and the details of those who were issued stockinvest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, information has been received by the Income Tax Department that certain irregularities have been committed in the subscription through stock invests in the HDFC Bank public issue. These are under investigation. The investigations are not yet complete.

(c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has found subscription through fake/bogus stock invests in certain public issues. Reserve Bank of India has also found certain irregularities in the use of stock invests facilities by Bank of Rajasthan, Indus Ind Bank Ltd. Vysya Bank, HDFC Bank Ltd., Bank of Madura Ltd., Global Trust Bank LTD., State Bank of Saurashtra and Indian Bank. Fake stock invests were found to be issued by certain banks to M/s Trendline Finance Ltd. Prachi Leasing & Finance Ltd., Harihar Chemicals Ltd., Swarshilp Properties Ltd., Ell Fashions Ltd., Dwarkesh Finance Ltd., Venus Floriculture Ltd., Delicious Investment & Finance Ltd., Vikas Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd

Small and Medium Industry in Sikkim

6. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the number of small and medium industries established in Sikkim since its merger into Republic of India,

(b) whether State Government has requested to help and rejuvenation of small scale industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to establish small or medium industries in Sikkim under Public Sector in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) 294 small scale industries and 6 medium scale industries have been set up in Sikkim since its merger into Republic of India

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Banks Services for Customers

7. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether nationalised banks render service to customers on the pattern of the foreign banks;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make nationalised banks more consumerable and profitable oriented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) Improvement of customer services is an area to which nationalised banks are giving attention on a continuing basis. Having regard to their network of branches spread throughout the country as contrasted with the limited presence of foreign banks in metropolitan areas as well as the different levels of application of technology in both these categories of banks, comparisons would not be appropriate. Further the nationalised banks provide a wide variety of services to all classes of customers.

(c) The Goiporia Committee which was constiuted by the Reserve Bank of India had made a number of recommendations to improve customer service in the Banking Industry. The continuing implementation of these recommendations is aimed at providing better customer service by antionalised banks. The most significant among a number of steps taken to increase the profitability of nationalised banks is a concerted effort to reduce NPAs by better credit appraisal as well as by improving post-lending supervision.

[Translation]

Dugdha Washery Plant No. 1

8. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether thousands of labourers have rendered jobless due to sudden closure of Dugdha Washery Plant No.1 of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide jobs to the unemployed labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that thousands of workers have been rendered jobless due to closure of Dugda-I Plant of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). Only 320 persons affected as a result of closure of the plant have been re-assigned alternative job in Dugda-II plant of BCCL itself at present.

[English]

Funds for Handloom Weavers

9. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned funds to Andhra Pradesh Government for providing relief to cyclone affected handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds released so far out of it; and

(c) by what time the remaining Central assistance would be released for further aid to the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Details of Release of Funds to the Andhra Pradesh Government for providing Refief to Cyclone affected Handloom Weavers under Various Schemes is as under :

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds Sanctioned	Funds Released (out of 3)	Remarks/release of Remaining Funds
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(3-4)
1.	Workshed-cum Housing Scheme	333.92	333.92	--
2.	Market Development Assistance Scheme	300.00	300.00	--
3.	Handloom Dve. Centres and Quality Dyeing Units Scheme	177.12	177.12	--
4.	Project Package Scheme	392.87	196.80	196.07*
5.	Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme	463.00	228.50	234.50*

* The remaining funds would be released to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh after release of Central and State share by the State Government, receipt of utilisation certificate and physical progress report

Subsidy on Sericulture

10. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested for increase in the subsidy on sericulture;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken to boost the production of silk in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a network of its units for extending the necessary research, extension, infrastructural and training support for development of sericulture in the State. Besides, Assam is one of the 12 non-traditional pilot States covered under the World Bank/SDC assisted National Sericulture Project. Assistance has also been provided for implementation of an action plan for development of silk industry in North-Eastern States including Assam. In additions, the State can also avail of assistance under the on-going approved schemes of CSB.

Value of Rupee

11. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian rupees is weakening by an average 2 per cent per month; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to arrest such a downwards trend ?